

Claims

*Sub B'*

1. A method for routing data in a communication system, the method comprising the steps of:  
5      determining that a first remote unit needs to communicate with a second remote unit, wherein the first remote unit is a mobile unit;  
      determining an availability of the second remote unit within a local network, wherein the first remote unit is part of the local network;  
      transferring a routing function from a packet data gateway to a Base  
10 Station System, based on the determination that the second remote unit is within the local network so that data can be routed from the first remote unit to the second remote unit via the BSS without routing the data through the packet data gateway.

15 2. A method for routing data in a communication system in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the step transferring the routing function from the BSS to a second BSS.

20 3. A method for routing data in a communication system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of transferring the routing function is done based on a request from the first or the second remote unit.

25 4. A method for routing data in a communication system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of transferring the routing function is initiated by the first remote unit upon reselection of a cell.

30 5. A method for routing data in a communication system in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting billing and statistics from the BSS to the packet data gateway.

6 ~~6~~. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of returning the routing function from the BSS to the Packet Data Gateway based on a determination that the first remote unit moved outside of the local area.

5 ~~7~~. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of returning the routing function from the BSS to the Packet Data Gateway based on a request to do so from the Packet Data Gateway.

10 ~~8~~. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of returning the routing function from the BSS to the Packet Data Gateway based on a context modification.

15 ~~9~~. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of returning the routing function from the BSS to the Packet Data Gateway based on a length of inactivity of the first remote unit.

20 ~~10~~. The method of claim 1 wherein the second remote unit comprises a data server providing interconnection to a circuit-switched network.

25 ~~11~~. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transferring the routing function is additionally based on an identity of the second remote unit.

30 ~~12~~. A method for routing data in a local network, the method comprising the steps of:  
receiving, at a base station a context, wherein the context supplies the base station with routing information;  
receiving uplink information from a first remote unit; and  
utilizing the context to route the uplink information to a second remote unit, wherein the routing of the information bypasses network elements external to the local network.